

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**TOWN OF GRAFTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 11, 2015**

MINUTES

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Grafton was held on Monday, May 11, 2015 in the Auditorium of the Grafton High School at 7:30 p.m.

Upon order of the Moderator Raymond Mead, 217 Brigham Hill Road, checkers were stationed at the entrances to the hall, using voting lists on which to check the names of those persons who entered.

The Moderator opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all present.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Brook Padgett led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Mead advised all present of the procedures used during Town Meeting.

Mr. Mead then appointed David Robbins, 92 George Hill Road, as Deputy Moderator.

Mr. Mead recognized Ginny Kremer, Town Counsel, Town Clerk, Donna Girouard, Doug Willardson, Assistant Town Administrator, and Tim McInerney, Town Administrator. Representative David Muradian was also recognized upon arrival and spoke briefly about the House Budget.

Town Clerk, Donna Girouard read the return of the warrant.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, David Libbey read the State of the Town.

ARTICLE 1. RECEIVE REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn it was voted to receive the reports of the several Town officers, boards, and committees and allow the Town Clerk to review available opportunities to serve on various Town boards or committees.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 2. APPOINT TRUSTEE OF NELSON PARK AND LIBRARY

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to re-appoint Roger Currier as a Trustee of the Nelson Park and Memorial Library and Building Fund for a term of three years.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 3. TOWN'S SHARE OF NET OPERATING COSTS – BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted raise and appropriate seven hundred seventy-two thousand, three-hundred fifty-three dollars (\$772,353.00), for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the net operating costs of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2015.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 4. BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate fifty-seven thousand, sixty-seven dollars (\$57,067) to fund the principal and interest costs for FY16 to be incurred by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for its capital expansion project.

The Moderator declared the vote carried.

ARTICLE 5. FY16 BUDGETS

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$49,439,072.45 and raise \$1,269,436.00 from Sewer Receipts and transfer \$38,600.55 from Sewer Betterments as recommended by the Town Administrator and as shown in the Finance Committee's printed report for the several Town Departments for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015.

The Moderator declared the vote carried.

ARTICLE 6. FUND FY16 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to appropriate \$1,348,670.00 from Free Cash; \$82,600.00 from Chapter 90 receipts; \$65,000.00 from the Oakmont defaulted subdivision account; and \$15,000 from the long-range sidewalks account, for the purposes of funding the FY16 Capital Expenditure Budget as printed in the warrant, said sum to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and various other departments.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 7. ALTER CLAUSE 41C FOR EXEMPTION LOCAL

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to reduce the requisite age of eligibility from 70 to 65 years to qualify for Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C exemptions, for any Fiscal Year beginning on or after July 1, 2015.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 8. ADOPT MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 59, SECTION 5C ½ FOR LOCAL EXEMPTION OPTIONS

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5C ½, which provides for an additional real estate exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, and to provide that the additional exemption shall be up to 100% of the personal exemption, to be effective for exemptions granted for any Fiscal Year beginning on or after July 1, 2015.

The Moderator declared the vote carried.

ARTICLE 9. ADOPT MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59, SECTION 5, CLAUSE 56 FOR LOCAL EXEMPTION OPTIONS

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 56, which provides for a real estate exemption for taxpayers who are members of the national guard or military reservists serving on active duty outside the United States, and to provide that the exemption shall be 100% of the real estate tax, prorated for days served during the Fiscal Year for which the application is being made, to be effective for two Fiscal Years beginning on July 1, 2015.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 10. FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to raise and appropriate one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), for the purposes of funding the Fire Department Insurance Supplement established under Article 15 of the March 16, 1987, Special Town Meeting, which is used for the purposes of paying not more than 75.00% of a firefighter's gross pay in case of injury while on duty as specified in Article 15 of the March 16, 1987, Special Town Meeting.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 11. AUTHORIZE TREASURER/COLLECTOR TO BORROW MONEY

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of

revenue to be received for fiscal year 2016, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 4, and amendments thereto, and to issue a note or notes for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 17, and amendments thereto.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 12. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to raise and appropriate forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00), said sum to be added to the Unemployment Compensation Account, for the purposes of paying the Unemployment Compensation expenses of the Town.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 13. REAUTHORIZE REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to reauthorize the revolving accounts defined by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½, for Fiscal Year 2016, as printed in the warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 14. SEWER – ACCEPT M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 39J

Upon motion of Bruce Padgett, it was voted to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 39J, which authorizes the Town to adopt a pricing system which includes the costs of the provision of sewer services to the residents and industrial and commercial users of the Town receiving said services, as set forth in the warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 15. FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FROM WRTA

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to request funding of transportation services from the WRTA, and to contract for and provide elderly bus services for the Town of Grafton for the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 16. TRANSPORTATION BOND BILL

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to appropriate as an available source five hundred thousand and forty three dollars (\$500,043.00) for State-Aid Highway purposes as requested by the Board of Selectmen to be reimbursed from the Commonwealth under the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill, so-called, and amendments thereto, for construction, reconstruction and improvements, including surface treatments and other work incidental to the above.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 17. AUTHORIZE BOARD TO ACCEPT & ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for construction, reconstruction, or improvements to public roads.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 18. SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to pass over this article.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 19. SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell real property located at 104 Creeper Hill Road for an amount of no less than \$300,000 for private development.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 20. LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY

Motion was made by Craig Dauphinais to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term written lease with the Grafton Water District, with options to extend for a period not to exceed thirty (30) years, for the purpose of constructing a water treatment pumping station and associated equipment and materials on a portion of the property owned by the Town of Grafton located off of Powerline Drive in Grafton (Book 11125, Page 258); the written lease to include terms, conditions and limitations as the Selectmen deem necessary and proper.

The Moderator declared the motion defeated as it did not meet the two-thirds required vote.

ARTICLE 21. HILLTOP FARMS SETTLEMENT

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to transfer \$889,626.53 that was received from the Hilltop Farms Settlement Agency account, to the Affordable Housing Trust, such sums to be dedicated to affordable housing purposes, as is consistent with the Regulatory Agreement governing such project.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 22. EASEMENT BRIGHAM HILL

Motion was made by Jennifer Thomas to accept a revised easement for 48 Brigham Hill Road to correct mistakes in the original easement and to continue to provide the town with access to the dam at Lake Ripple.

The Moderator declared the motion defeated as it did not meet the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 23. AMEND BY LAW Article 12, Section 11B (new language in bold, strikethrough removed)

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to amend Article 12, Section 11B, as printed in the warrant, to restrict animals from town-owned cemeteries and apply a \$50 fine for violations. .

By a standing vote of 106 in favor and 116 opposed, the Moderator declared the motion defeated.

ARTICLE 24. CPC - OPERATING BUDGET

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to authorize the use of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in the fiscal year 2016 Community Preservation revenues, for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC).

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 25. CPC - PELL FARM BOND PAYMENT

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to appropriate the sum of ninety thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$90,825) from the fiscal year 2016 Community Preservation revenues for the purpose of making the interest and principle payment on the \$1.2 million bond issued for the purchase of the Pell Farm property.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 26. CPC - GRAFTON TOWN HOUSE BOND PAYMENT

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to appropriate the sum of seventy three thousand, six hundred seventeen dollars (\$73,617.00) from the fiscal year 2016 Community Preservation revenues, for the purpose of making the interest and principle payment on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the renovation of the Grafton Town House.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 27. CPC – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to transfer forty-four thousand, nine hundred and fifty-eight dollars (\$44,958) from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve account to the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust, with such funds to be used in accordance with the CPA guidelines for community housing.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 28. CPC - RESTORATION OF LIBRARY DOORS

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to appropriate eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) from Community Preservation Historical Reserve funds, for the purpose of restoring the main entrance doors and the exterior boiler room door at the Grafton Public Library, while maintaining the historical integrity of the building, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 29. CPC - FARNUMSVILLE FIREHOUSE GARAGE DOORS

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to appropriate three thousand, six hundred and forty dollars (\$3,640) from Community Preservation Historical Reserve funds, for the purpose of restoring the swing out garage doors on the Farnumsville Firehouse, while maintaining the historical integrity of the building, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 30. CPC - PURCHASE OF CHURCHILL MEADOWS

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to appropriate sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve fund for the purpose of acquiring land totaling 5.45 acres known as "Churchill Meadows;" located at 114 Merriam Road, Grafton, as printed in the warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 31. CPC - GRAFTON SUPER PARK

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund revenues for the purpose of creating a play structure and surrounding park facility at the Perrault Property, with such funds to be expended by June 30, 2017.

Jennifer Thomas, Chair of the Super Park Study Committee, gave a brief presentation from O'Brien and sons about the Super Park plans.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 32. REAUTHORIZATION OF EXCESS BORROWING PROCEEDS – CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Motion was made by Jennifer Thomas to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Three Thousand, Four Hundred Twenty-nine dollars and Seventy-four cents (\$143,429.74), for the purpose of creating a play structure and surrounding park facility at the Perrault Property (4-6 Upton Street), from unexpended bonds or note proceeds authorized under Article 48, May 8, 2006.

By a standing vote of 132 in the affirmative and 76 opposed, the Moderator declared the motion defeated as it did not meet required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 33. FIRE HYDRANTS– SOUTH GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to accept a hydrant at 63 Maple Avenue from the South Grafton Water District.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 34. FIRE HYDRANTS– GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to accept the following hydrants from the Grafton Water District.

- #651 Providence Road at Luka Drive
- #656 203 Providence Road

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 35. RESCIND EXCESS BORROWING PROCEEDS – NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to rescind \$36,637,021 of excess borrowing authorization approved by Article 1 of the February 6, 2010, Special Town Meeting, for the purpose of funding the renovation of the new High School.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 36. AMENDMENT TO THE GRAFTON ZONING BY-LAW SECTIONS 3.2.3.1 & 5.6-RIDING STABLES

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to amend sections 3.2.3.1 & 5.6 -- Riding Stables of the Zoning By-Laws as printed in the warrant.

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 37. AMENDMENT TO THE GRAFTON ZONING BY-LAW: ZONING DISTRICT REFERENCES SECTION 3.1.2 – ZONING MAP

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to amend section 3.1.2 – Zoning Map of the Zoning By-Law as printed in the warrant to eliminate all references to a hard-copy zoning map and instead refer to a general zoning map that can be updated digitally.

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 38. AMENDMENT TO THE GRAFTON ZONING BY-LAW SECTION 4.4.4.4 SIGNS

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to amend the Zoning By-Law by adding the following new language in **bold**: ZBL Section ZBL Section 4.4.4.4 Relief from the requirements of Section 4.4 with respect to the size, **height, installation of signs pursuant to Section 4.4.2.5.9**, minimum setback, location (on- or off-premises), or quantity of sign(s).

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 39. AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN OF GRAFTON ZONING MAP

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to amend the Zoning By-Laws by adding the following: ZBL Section 3.1.2 – Zoning Map: To amend the map entitled “Town of Grafton – Zoning Map” to rezone 36 Nelson Street (Assessors Map 11, Parcel 46) from Industrial to Medium Density Residential (R20) and to include 105 Westboro Road (Assessors Map 12, Parcel 15) in the Chapter 43 D Priority Development Site Overlay District.

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

**ARTICLE 40. AMENDMENT TO THE GRAFTON ZONING BY-LAW SECTION 11—
CHAPTER 43D PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT SITE OVERLAY DISTRICT**

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to amend Zoning By-Law Section 11 - Chapter 43D Priority Development Site Overlay District of the Zoning By-Laws as printed in the warrant to include 105 Westboro Road as a Priority Development Site.

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 41. MODIFY WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to amend the Zoning By-Law as printed in the warrant to allow uses permitted within a Campus Development Overlay District to be permitted in a Water Supply Protection Overlay District.

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

David Libbey, Chairman of the Finance committee advised that the Finance Committee has reconsidered and now supports the article.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 42. MODIFY R20 ZONING, 65 North Main Street

Upon motion of Dennis Flynn, it was voted to modify the R20 zoning of a parcel located at 65 North Main Street to be in alignment with adjacent neighboring parcels #39 through 76, which are zoned as Neighborhood Business.

David Robbins, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

Motion was made to adjourn at 10:46 pm.

The Moderator declared the motion carried

A true copy,

Attest,

Donna M. Girouard

Town Clerk